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For additional information contact:
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EXPERIENCE YOUR AMERICA



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The Shirley House



The Shirley House is the only surviving Civil War-era structure within the battlefield unit of Vicksburg National Military Park. Built in the late 1830s by Nicholas Gray, an Irish immigrant, the house was originally named 'Wexford Lodge' after his native Wexford County in Ireland. In 1849, the property was deeded, or sold, to Ben Johnson, who in turn, deeded it to Judge James Shirley on January 1, 1851. The judge, along with his second wife Adeline and James, his young son from his first marriage, had moved from Alabama to Vicksburg, where he established both a residence and law practice in the thriving city. The Shirleys had four children after moving to Vicksburg, three of whom survived to adulthood. It is through the daughter, Alice, who wrote of the family's experience during the Civil War, that the history of the Shirley House has been preserved and documented for future generations.



Falling into ruin due to neglect and decay in the decades following the Civil War, Alice sold the house to the U.S. Government in

May 1900, on the condition that her parents be buried in the back yard, and that the home be fully restored – circumstances both met at that time.



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